Cadets lost their lives in the tragedy.

An enquiry into the incident is in progress. Action will be taken against those found guilty. Ex-gratia compensation @ Rs. 50,000/- has already been paid by NCC to the next of kin of the deceased Cadets. The balance @ Rs. 50,000/- will be paid in due course.

Losses to Ordnance factories due to earthquake in Jabalpur

24. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ordnance factories suffered losses due to earthquake in Jabalpur on 22nd May, 1997, and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether export schedule has been hit and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to meet the schedule?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU): (a) to (c) There are four Ordnance Factories located in Jabalpur. Two of these factories and their estates namely Ordnance Factory, Khamaria and Gun Carriage Factory, Jabalpur suffered damages which would cost about Rs. 94 crores to rectify. About one hundred (100) persons of Ordnance Factory, Khamaria were injured in the earthquake, 7 (seven) of these were injured seriously. In the two other Ordnance factories at Jabalpur viz. Vehicle Factory and Grey Iron Foundry, the effect of earthquake was minor.

Delivery of ammunition in one export contract is likely to be delayed. A revised delivery schedule has been proposed to the buyer and his approval is being sought in view of force majure.

Procurement of electrostatic liquid cleaner machines by IAF

25. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the IAF procured 27 electrostatic liquid cleaner machines at a cost of Rs. 77.23 lakhs which were found unsuitable for use; and

(b) if so, who is responsible for this waste and whether any action has been taken against the persons concerned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU): (a) and (b) The IAF procured the said machines for cleaning hydraulic oil of aircraft system. However, a study carried out by technical experts, advised that these machines may not be useful for aircraft hydraulic oil. But these were found equally useful in radar units/ BRDs/AMSE where the oil requires periodic cleaning and dehumidification. Hence these machines are being gainfully utilised.

Release of book written by Maj. Gen. Arjun Ray

26. SHRI K. R. MALKANI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Major-General Arjun Ray has just published the book 'Kashmir Diary';

(b) whether the book was okayed by Government;

(c) whether the author's meet with the foreign press was stopped only minutes before it was due;

(d) whether this last action was prompted by the fact that this book by a serving officer makes controversial and political statements; and

(e) if so, why the book was okayed and officially released in the first place?